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ing all ungodliness, and worldly or sinful lusts, should live soberly, godly and righteously in this world, and attain to those dispositions and habits of mind and practice which shall qualify us to be happy hereafter. I think it matters little what *name* a man bears, or what *professions* he makes, if his life and practice do not prove his sincerity. Nothing has contributed more to bring discredit on religion, than the practice of its professors, and even of those you call *chairmen*, who too often, instead of exemplifying the doctrine, and defending the interest of Jesus and true reason, are a disgrace to both by their inconsistency; but let not you and I so much dwell on the weakness, errors, divisions, blindness, and insincerity of others, as endeavour to follow after and adhere to Jesus and reason, who is as himself has declared, the way, the truth, and the life, and you know the perfection of reason is the discovery of and attachment to the truth.

A LAYMAN.

Near Giant's Causeway, June 4th, 1814.

Socrates the Younger and the Layman are very familiar neighbours.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I WAS a good deal surprised to see on many windows in the enlightened town of Belfast, a paper announcing the sale of double soda water. On inquiring into the cause of this name, from those who sold this agreeable beverage, I found even they were deceived, as they supposed that the force by which the cork flew, was evidence of its being double soda water. But what is still worse, and occasions much

injury is, the bottles burst, and injure not only those who make it, but hazards the eyes or limbs of the purchasers.

Those at all acquainted with chemical subjects will allow that simple saturation can only be effected by the salt, and that a particle of carbonic acid gas cannot be added after such saturation, must be admitted. It is true the elastic fluid can be compressed by force into a much less space than it naturally possesses; this elasticity is the cause of the force acting on the cask or bottle, but surely it cannot add in the smallest degree to the strength of the liquid. The manufacturer therefore is under the necessity of having bottles of greater strength; clay will not do, and they must be glass of great thickness, which enhances the price. What a pity that a fluid intended as a substitute for inebriating liquors, and in such general use, should be so much enhanced in price, in consequence of imposition. But still more, will not the silence with which men of science treat it, lead still farther to greater error? I would not be much surprised, if the present mode of making soda water is not opposed, that an air pump may be got to fill the bottles; then the explosion may be expected alarming not only to the buyers and sellers, but to the passing throng.

Your obedient servant,

AGRICOLA.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS I am a constant reader of your Magazine, I saw in one of your late numbers "Remarks on a chapel near Larne," and as I have always found truth to be your object, I was determined from the time